S/N 09/638091

N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

ANDRES et al.

Examiner:

unknown

Serial No.:

09/638091

Group Art Unit:

2736

Filed:

August 11, 2000/

Docket No.:

13835.10US01

Title:

COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL FOR ANTERCONNECTED

HAZARDOUS CONDITION DETECTORS, AND SYSTEM EMPLOYING

THE SAME

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 2021 on July 2, 2002.

Name: Nicole Landree

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)) RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

JUL 1 5 2002 Technology Center 2600

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

Applicant hereby brings to the attention of the Examiner that they have a commonly assigned co-pending application, Serial No. PCT/US01/25129, filed August 10, 2001, and the references were cited in the afore-mentioned case. A copy of the specification for Serial No. PCT/US01/25129, filed August 10, 2001, is included for the Examiner's review.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a

reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

P.O. Box 2903

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(612)332.5300

Bv:

Michael D. Schumann

Reg. No. 30,422

MDS/nel

Dated: July 2, 2002

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE